

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 AGR-20

DRC-01 /186 W

----- 064498

R 071631Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9673

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0731

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GY

SUBJECT: TWO DAY STRIKE HITS SUGAR INDUSTRY

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0644 (B) GEORGETOWN 0653

1. SUMMARY. GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU), LABOR ARM OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, CALLED TWO DAY STRIKE TO CONTINUE TO PUSH VARIOUS PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS DEMANDS AND TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S NEW SUGAR EXPORT TAX. ADDING TO WORKER GRIEVANCES, NEW TAX SCHEME WILL DRASTICALLY REDUCE WORKERS' SHARE OF EXPECTED 1974 PAYOUT UNDER PROFIT SHARING PLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 2ND AND MAY 3RD, GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU), UNRECOGNIZED SUGAR WORKERS UNION AND LABOR ARM OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), CALLED TWO DAY STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF SAME PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS DEMANDS  
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WHICH HAD TOUCHED OFF EARLIER STRIKE (REF A). GAWU ALSO CALLED

STRIKE TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S NEW SUGAR EXPORT TAX (REF B). SUGAR PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION(SPA) INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICER TOLD EMBASSY STRIKE WAS PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE, ALTHOUGH IN BARBICE AREA SHUTDOWN WAS ALMOST COMPLETE. MOST WORKERS HAVE NOW RETURNED TO WORK. SPA IS SEEKING MEETING WITH MINISTER OF LABOR WINSLOW CARRINGTON TO DISCUSS GAWU DEMANDS.

3. COMMENT: NEW GOVERNMENT SUGAR EXPORT TAX ADDS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE GRIEVANCE TO LIST WHICH ALREADY INCLUDES DEMAND FOR GAWU RECOGNITION AND LACK OF 1974 CONTRACT. UNDER EXISTING PROFIT-SHARING PLAN WORKERS ARE ENTITLED TO SIXTY PERCENT OF COMPANIES NET PROFIT. BEFORE NEW SUGAR EXPORT TAX INTRODUCED, WORKERS SHARE OF PROFIT BASED ON EMBASSY ESTIMATE OF INDUSTRY SALES AND COSTS, WOULD HAVE BEEN \$23.2 MILLION (G). NOW, WITH REDUCED PROFITS UNDER NEW TAX SCHEME, WORKERS' SHARE WILL COME TO ABOUT \$6-7.2 MILLION(G). IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUGAR WORKERS WILL ACCEDE QUIETLY TO SUCH LOSS. KREBS

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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